PRINTER RUSH (PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application	: <u>09/901, 15</u>	Examiner: _	K. ZAND	GAU:	2132	
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The privileged mode driver 250 accesses the PHY hardware 220 to determine the operational characteristics of the radio 230. If the control codes 280 passed by the standard mode driver 240 have not been altered, the operational characteristics of the radio 230 will be consistent with the secure control codes 310. If the operational characteristics of the radio 230 are not consistent with the secure control codes 310, the privileged mode driver 250 may take a variety of protective actions. For example, the privileged mode driver 250 may inhibit operation of the software modem 50 by disabling up the standard mode driver 240 or by entirely disabling the computer 100 by initiating an unrecoverable error condition.

The particular technique for invoking the privileged mode driver 250 and the frequency at which it is invoked may vary. For example, the standard mode driver 240 may call the privileged mode driver 250 at a predetermined frequency (e.g., every N frames up to and including every frame). In an alternative embodiment, the privileged mode driver 250 may be invoked periodically by another process independent of the standard mode driver 240. For example the operating system under which the computer 100 operates may include a timer that is used to periodically initiate an SMI to invoke the privileged mode driver 250. In another embodiment, security hardware including a secure timer may be included in the computer 100 for periodically invoking the privileged mode driver 250. For example, a restart timer 155, resident on the south bridge 150 may be used to periodically invoke the privileged mode driver 250 after a predetermined amount of time has elapsed. The particular operation of the restart timer 155 is described in greater detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No 9/90/, incorporated above.

Once the privileged mode driver 250 is invoked, it uses the secure control codes 310 extracted from the secure decrypted data 300 to determine the expected operational state of the PHY hardware 220 and radio 230. There are various techniques by which the privileged